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NSC BRIEFING

30 April 1957

**BACKGROUND: '57 MAY DAY AIR PARADE**

DIA review(s) completed.

I. Ever since Soviet rehearsals for the traditional ~~fly-by~~ <sup>(AIR PARADE)</sup>

on May Day 1955 revealed that we had been optimistically

~~underestimating~~ the USSR's heavy bomber production-rate <sup>(IN THE USSR)</sup>

~~the approach of another May Day fly-by has been a time of~~ <sup>REHEARSALS HAVE RECEIVED</sup>

~~particular vigilance for the intelligence community.~~ <sup>THE CLOSEST ATTENTION OF</sup>

A. Can never be sure, until 1 May has passed <sup>(-- AND WITH GOOD FLYING-WEATHER --)</sup> that we're

not in for another Soviet surprise. <sup>(ABOUT TO RECEIVE)</sup>

B. This shadow of doubt remains, even though the Sovs have <sup>(IN RECENT YEARS)</sup>

usually ~~exhibited~~ their newest aircraft developments <sup>(MADE USE OF AIR FORCE DAY (IN JUNE), RATHER THAN MAY DAY TO SHOWOFF)</sup>

~~at Force Day (in June) rather than at the May Day parade.~~

II. Rehearsals for this May Day ~~parade~~ fly-by <sup>(WEEK'S HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE)</sup>

thusfar ~~have~~ WE HAVE

~~shown~~ no surprises. <sup>SEEN</sup>

A. Rehearsal ~~of~~ (24 Apr) <sup>(ON)</sup> set new record for <sup>(THE 8th)</sup> total number

of planes ~~165~~ <sup>(Involved)</sup>

B. Maximum numbers of various bombers thusfar seen in rehearsals

are as follows: twin-jet TU-16s - - 47 (on 17 Apr); 4-engine

turboprop TU-75s - - 9 (on 24 Apr); 4-jet heavy M-4s - - 10

<sup>(THESE FIGURES ARE IN LINE WITH OUR ESTIMATES @)</sup> Of the two types of fighters

thusfar involved, the high counts <sup>(HAVE)</sup> been 60 MIG-19s and 40

YAK-25 all-weather interceptors. <sup>THESE FIGURES ARE ALSO IN LINE @</sup>

C. Our Air Force attache in Moscow believes <sup>(F)</sup> that the intensive

rehearsal schedule means the Sovs <sup>(WANT)</sup> desire to put on an impressive

show this year, but that <sup>(ITEMS ARE)</sup> if any new ~~is~~ to be shown - -

<sup>(WE probably WILL NOT SEE THEM)</sup> it will ~~not~~ appear until the actual May Day parade. <sup>(DAY OF THE)</sup>

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